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**CHICO MAN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL CHILD SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION CHARGES**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that 30-year old MICHAEL ISHAQ of Chico, California was sentenced to 78 months in prison after pleading guilty in September to the charge he transported and aided and abetted the transportation of a minor from Illinois to California for the purpose of engaging in unlawful sexual conduct. ISHAQ was sentenced this morning by Senior United States District Court Judge Lawrence K. Karlton who also imposed a 10-year term of supervised release following the completion of his prison term.

This case was the product of a joint investigation by the FBI, the Chico Police Department, and the Shorewood, Illinois Police Department.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Laurel D. White, who prosecuted the case, the investigation of ISHAQ began in late June of this year when police from Shorewood, Illinois contacted the FBI in Sacramento to report a missing 15-year old girl. The parents of the 15-year old discovered that their daughter had been communicating via the Internet with ISHAQ who lived in Chico, and that e-mails on the girl's computer revealed that ISHAQ had facilitated her travel to Sacramento by purchasing her airline ticket. The evidence showed that the girl flew to Sacramento from Illinois on June 23, and that ISHAQ met her at the airport. He then drove her to his Chico apartment where the two engaged in sexual activity. The minor told FBI agents that during her 5-day stay in California, she engaged in multiple sex acts with ISHAQ and that he had photographed their sexual encounters. She said she met ISHAQ on an Internet chat room called "planetteen.com" when she was 12 years old, and had communicated with him via the Internet ever since. She said ISHAQ knew she was 15 at the time of her travel to Sacramento.

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